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April 30, 2001 LB 543

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is the university created by the state?

SENATOR ERDMAN: Yes, sir, it is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are local schools created by the state? In other words, if a new school is going to come into existence, does the state create that school, set the curriculum and say how many teachers, students and where it will be located?

SENATOR ERDMAN: Not yet.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is the local school a part of the state system of education?

SENATOR ERDMAN: As far ...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: In other words, is it an adjunct to the state, or is it...is it an essential part of the state? Is it a part of the state system of education? Are these state schools, or are they local schools?

SENATOR ERDMAN: They are local schools with funding coming from the state of Nebraska to help cover the costs of those schools.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think the state has the same obligation to these local schools that it has to the university?

SENATOR ERDMAN: As far as the way the land grant was...or the Morrill Act was instituted, I would say probably not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So the two, since they are different, essentially, cannot be expected to operate under the same principles, can they?

SENATOR ERDMAN: I think the principle of operating within a budget applies anywhere. Now, as far as how much money we give them is obviously what we're debating here so, from that standpoint, I would say that our funding to them is totally our responsibility; local funding for their schools is totally their responsibility. But the philosophy of living within certain